

REMARKS

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 5 currently stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Draper (U.S. Patent No. 214,894) in view of Blendermann (U.S. Patent No. 3,469,698).

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner repeated the point that the structure of Blendermann is inherently capable of axial movement. On the other hand, the Examiner did not respond to the Applicant's arguments regarding the differences in slot orientation as between Blendermann and the present application. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to Claim 5 provides structural features that distinguish over Blendermann in that relative axial movement of the first body and the second body adjusts the combined length of the axially oriented first slots and the axially oriented second slots to increase the slot open flow area. Furthermore, the slot open flow area increases linearly throughout the limited axial movement of the first body and the second body.

In Blendermann, the slots are arranged horizontally about the circumference. If the relative axial position of the sleeves were to be adjusted axially as proposed by the Examiner, the movement would result in slots being alternately opened and closed as the horizontally-oriented slots passed over one another. At some point, the Blendermann sleeves would be pulled up high enough that some rows of slots at the bottom would be left uncovered. In contrast, axial movement of the sleeves in the present application results in a cumulative lengthening of the axially oriented first slots and the axially oriented second slots. This cumulative lengthening results in a linear increase in flow area as the sleeves are expanded. It can be seen that the cleanout drain of the present application allows a user control over flow which is not possible based on the teachings of Blendermann.

The deficiencies of disclosure of the Draper reference are acknowledged. For the reasons discussed above, the disclosure of Blendermann do not overcome the lack of disclosure in Draper. Accordingly, Claim 5 is patentable over Draper and Blendermann and should be allowed.

Allowed Claims

Claims 8-11 have been allowed, which applicant appreciates.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests the early issue of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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